

ETA RFP NEWS

Issue # 1

Date: October 23, 1997

Several vendors have expressed interest in communicating with the attendees of the September 22, 1997 ETA Industry Presentation, provided below is that information:

800-TAX REFUND, Inc.
(216) 361-0303

AES
(703) 264-5386

Andersen Consulting, LLP
(202) 862-2157

AT&T
2020 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 776-5517
fax:(202) 776-5619

BDM International, Inc. (BDM)
(202) 942-4960

Beneficial Management Corporation of America
(202) 646-1260

Booz, Allen & Hamilton, Inc.
(703) 902-5269

BSC Systems, Inc.
Bailey & Smith Service Center
4632 Suitland Road
Suitland, MD 20746
(301)420-3213

CertCo
(301) 656-8262

Coopers & Lybrand, LLP
(703) 918-3553

CERCA
(703) 684-3153

Dobbs ,Ram & Company
(404) 897-1033

EDS
(703) 742-1341

Financial Management Service
(202)874-6835

First Data Corp./CashTax, Inc.
(303)706-6529

GTE
(703) 818-5791

H & R Block
(202) 508-6363

IBM Global Government Industry
(301) 803-2676

Informix
(703) 714-0634

Interim, Inc.
(301) 631-5086

Intuit
6220 Greenwich Drive
San Diego, CA92122-5988
(619) 784-4463

Lockheed Martin
(301)240-7321

MITRE
(703) 883-5463

Mobius Management Systems
(703) 556-6979

MRS Electronic Filing
(703) 644-1580

National Association of Enrolled Agents (NAEA)
200 Orchard Ridge Drive,
Suite 302
Gaithersburg, MD 20878-1978
(301) 212-9608

NationsBank
(404) 607-5656

Nelco Inc.
3130 S. Ridge Road
P.O. Box 10208
Green Bay, WI 54307-0208
(414) 337-2801

Networking & Engineering Technologies, Inc.
(703) 924-1625

OnLine Forms Commissions
(703) 356-3494

Pen Op
(212) 244-3667

Periphonics
(703) 918-4857

SCI Consulting, Inc.
(703) 208-9800

Sequent Computer Systems, Inc.
(703) 448-2157

Sun Microsystems Federal, Inc.
(703) 204-4915

SRA
(703) 558-4032

Universal Tax Systems
(706) 232-7757

Verisign, Inc.
Airport Sq. 14, Suite 150
1190 Winterson Road
Linthicum, MD 21090
(410)691-2100

Vistronix, Inc.
(703) 734-2220

Xerox Special Information Systems
(703) 284-3884

Xpress Software, Inc.
203 Bradley Drive
West Columbia, SC 29170-2404
(803)808-1040
www.XpressSoftware.com

ETA PROPOSAL PREPARATION SEMINAR

Are you out there wanting to get involved with the ETA acquisition and have never dealt with the Federal Government before? Well , fear no more! The IRS is sponsoring a Proposal Preparation Seminar. This Seminar will give those who have never participated in this process information on how to respond to a Request For Proposal (RFP). For more information on how to register, please contact Brett Blake at (202) 283-1137 or send an email to brett.l.blake@cmail.irs.gov. The date is set for November 21, 1997, the time is 10:00am till 4:00pm, and the location is IRS Procurement, Treasury Acquisition Institute located in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Stay Tuned For More Information.

Draft RFP (DRFP) Corner

The DRFP was issued on September 15, 1997 and will remain open for comment until November 17, 1997. The ETA Team members are holding one on one meetings with industry on the ETA DRFP. The DRFP is a work in process document and the final RFP will incorporate comments/responses that are received from the industry meetings. If there is an issue or a question that you have, please let us know. If you think we have omitted vital information in any of the approaches, we would very much like to hear from you. To schedule a meeting or to ask a question please contact Brett Blake at (202) 283-1137 or send an email to brett.l.blake@ccmail.irs.gov.

Changes to the DRFP:

As a result of industry comments, The IRS may incorporate System Enhancements as part of Approach 2. As the DRFP now reads, Approach 2 is basically designed for Non-Monetary Agreements For Increased Volumes.

New Laws Affecting ETA

P.L. 105-61
H.R. 2378

Sec. 120. "Based on results of industry response to the Request for Proposals, in tax-year 1998, the Internal Revenue Service shall initiate a pilot project which would pay qualified returns preparers, electronic return originators, or transmitters who electronically forward and file tax returns (form 1040 and related information returns) properly formatted and accepted by the Internal Revenue Service, up to \$3.00 per return so filed if such payments are determined by the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service to be in the best interest of the Government: *Provided*, That the payment may not be made unless the electronic filing service is provided without charge to the taxpayer whose return is so filed: *Provided further*, That the Internal Revenue Service shall use standard procurement processes to establish this pilot project and through these processes, the Internal Revenue Service shall assure the security of all electronic transmissions and the

full protection of the privacy of taxpayer data."

Response To Industry Questions

ETA DRFP Industry Questions:
Question numbers 1 -31 are located under ETA Industry Presentation

QUESTION #32: It appears the IRS is more concerned with awarding contracts under Approach 1 and 2 of the RFP for increases in electronically filed returns rather than Approach 3 which provides for enhancements to the existing systems. Is this the case?

RESPONSE: No. The IRS is very interested in proposals from industry which will improve the existing ETA system. We highly encourage proposals under Approach 3 so that the IRS can take full advantage of industry proposed solutions to improve/enhance electronic filing.

QUESTION #33: What does the IRS want in the form of a response to the draft RFP? Is the response to the draft RFP that is due in November different than what we are to submit for the final RFP?

RESPONSE: The draft RFP was issued for the purpose of allowing industry to review the document and provide suggestions on structuring the final RFP so as to encourage the maximum number of proposals from industry. Your comments to the draft RFP may be provided to the IRS by meeting face-to-face, by teleconference or by submitting your comments in writing. The final RFP will contain instructions on when and how to submit proposals.

QUESTION #34: What will Bob Barr's involvement be with the Request For Proposal (RFP) selection process?

RESPONSE: As the new Assistant Commissioner for Electronic Tax Administration (ETA), Bob Barr has great interest in the outcome of the RFP. Mr. Barr will serve as an advisor to the source selection authority during the RFP selection process. The IRS will be looking to Mr. Barr for guidance on the overall direction he plans the ETA program to take.

QUESTION #35: First, can responses be company specific (i.e.,

can IRS award contracts/concessions to one company only and not offer it industry-wide) or do responses have to be for the entire industry? Or can IRS do both, and if so, under what criteria? For example, are promised volumes in Approach 1 by company or industry-wide?

RESPONSE: Proposals submitted in response to the final RFP will be separated by Proposal Approach (1, 2, or 3).

Proposals submitted in response to Approach 1 and Approach 2 are required to be company specific. Currently both approaches require the offerors to respond by proposing specific volumes of electronic transmissions. The offeror should propose only the volume of electronic transmissions that their company, including subcontractors and/or teaming partners, can realistically achieve. In addition, based upon the receipt of several industry comments, the IRS intends to revise the RFP to also allow the submission of proposals for systems enhancements under Approach 2. Privileges granted under Approach 2 to an individual company for a limited time may be later granted industry wide at the discretion of the IRS.

Proposals submitted in response to Approach 3 for system enhancements may be company specific; however, the Government reserves the right to make any system enhancement available industry-wide. If you have a specific question regarding a particular system enhancement please submit it in writing prior to submission of your proposal.

QUESTION #36: Second, what does it mean to be within the scope of the current ETA system? No modifications whatsoever? Minor modifications allowed? How will industry be able to determine this?

RESPONSE: The phrase "within scope of the current ETA system" as it is stated in the draft RFP, means any minor change to the existing ETA system that can be implemented by the beginning of the 1999 filing season. Specific questions regarding scope issues should be submitted in writing prior to the submission of your proposal otherwise all scope issues raised after award must be referred to the Contracting Officer for an official determination.